

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A method for querying and returning instances of items comprising:
receiving from an application a request identifying an item stored in at least one database, said item having a scope that includes at least one additional item;
generating an object that encapsulates an instance of the identified item, the encapsulation providing a method for querying the at least one database;
executing a query on said object for at least one additional item, the query utilizing the scope of the identified item as a parameter; and
returning to the application at least one instance of the at least one additional item that matches the query.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
interfacing with a database of stored items, each item associated with at least one schema that defines an item's type; and
generating at least one data class for each item stored in said database, wherein the fields of the item's type map to the fields of the at least one data class.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one schema that defines an item's type is received from a third party.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein generating an instance of said identified item further comprises:
generating an instance of the identified item from at least one data class, wherein the generated instance includes methods specific to the data class.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said object utilizes a connection to the database to query the database and modify the items stored in said database.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the query further specifies at least one of an item's property, an item's extensions, and an item's relationships as a query parameter.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
receiving an indication that said application has modified the at least one instance of the at least one additional item.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the object utilizes a method for saving changes to save the modifications to the at least one item stored in said database.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the scope of said identified item includes a plurality of items stored in a plurality of databases.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the object establishes a connection with the plurality of databases to query for the at least one additional item.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the object establishes an individual connection with a specific database in the plurality of databases to save changes to a specific item stored in said specific database.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the object includes a conflict handler method that is configured to detect when multiple applications modify instances of the same item and determine what modifications to save by utilizing a policy.

29. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
maintaining a cache of the at least one instance of the at least one additional item that matches the query, wherein subsequent queries are performed against the cache.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
receiving an indication that an application has modified the at least one instance of the at least one additional item; and
utilizing a method for saving changes to the at least one instance of the at least one additional item in said cache.

31. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said identified item is a set of items that includes one of an entire database of items, any subset of items in said database, and any individual item in said database.

32. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the identified is an item of a type folder, the scope of the item of the type folder includes any items that are contained within the item of the type folder.

33. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein each item stored in said database includes a relationship to another item stored in said database, said relationship defined by a property in an item that is a source of the relationship and a property in an item that is the target of the relationship.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein a query that includes an item's relationships as a parameter returns an instance of any item that is the source a relationship and an instance of any item that is the target of a relationship.

35. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
receiving a request from an application to track changes to one of an item, an item's extensions, and an item's relationships;
registering said application for a notification service that notifies said application when any changes to one of the item, the item's extensions, and the item's relationships are detected.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said notification service notifies said application when any changes to items associated with the item, the item's extensions, and the item's relationships are detected.